

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5235
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002
DAMAGE IN CONTAI COAST OF W.B.
NITISH SENGUPTA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the sea dykes along Contai coast, West Bengal have become very weak following the 1999 cyclone;
- (b) whether any big upsurge from the sea can lead to widespread flooding and destruction of property, land and lives in several areas of Contai sub-division;
- (c) if so, whether the Union Government have asked the Government of West Bengal to attend to the repair work on an emergency basis; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) As per the information received from the State Government, the Cyclone of 1999 caused some damage to the Sea Dykes along the Contai Coast of West Bengal and at some points, the Dyke got weakened.

(b) In the event of any big upsurge from the sea, the State Government has reported that the possibility of flooding of some sea-side areas causing damage to land and property of the local inhabitants and creating temporary disturbance to public life can not be ruled out.

(c) & (d) Flood Management being a State subject, flood control schemes including coastal erosion are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. The Central Government renders assistance that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

The Government of West Bengal has informed that they have attended to the repair works of the damaged sea dyke on priority basis and have taken up the following works with their own resources, after the Cyclone of 1999:-

- (i) Raising and strengthening of the sea dyke from 36.00 km to 41.00 km has already been completed.
- (ii) Raising and strengthening of the sea dyke from 27.50 km to 29.15 km and from 30.50 km to 36.00 km have been undertaken.
- (iii) A scheme involving works on raising and strengthening of the sea dyke from 41.00 km to 48.00 km and from 61.25 km to 65.40 km has been sanctioned.
- (iv) The scheme 'Protection of sand dune, sea dyke by brick and concrete block pitching in between the mouzas Gopalpur and Bhogpur' at an estimated cost of Rs. 64.66 lakhs is also under process in the State Government.